

Senate Resolution 422

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Balfour of the 9th, Golden of the 8th, Tarver of the 22nd, Jackson of the 2nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the board of directors of the Georgia Lottery Corporation develop methods
2 to increase funding available for the Georgia HOPE scholarship program through its lottery
3 revenue and that it provide the Senate with a report of its suggestions and findings; and for
4 other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the Georgia Lottery has been helping to fund the education of Georgia's
6 children for over 15 years and is internationally recognized as one of the best operated state
7 lotteries; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Lottery has raised more than \$10.5 billion for HOPE scholarships,
9 technology improvements, and pre-K programs; and

10 WHEREAS, over 1.1 million Georgia students have received HOPE scholarships funded by
11 the Georgia Lottery, and over 900,000 Georgia children have benefited from pre-K programs
12 funded by the Georgia Lottery; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia families have come to depend on the HOPE scholarships and pre-K
14 programs generated through the Georgia Lottery; however, the state's lottery revenue growth
15 using traditional lottery games has reached its apex and has slowed to an annual growth rate
16 of less than 1 percent; and

17 WHEREAS, lottery expenditures for HOPE scholarships and pre-K programs are projected
18 to continue to increase at an annual rate of over 6 percent and exceed revenue brought in
19 through the Georgia Lottery starting in fiscal year 2010; and

20 WHEREAS, because Georgia is the fourth fastest growing state in the nation, the demand
21 for the programs funded by the Georgia Lottery will continue to increase; and

22 WHEREAS, the rising costs of higher education and pre-K programs will also place
23 additional demands to increase the money generated by the Georgia Lottery; and

24 WHEREAS, without a substantial increase in lottery revenues, Georgia parents and students
25 are likely to experience significant reductions in the availability of HOPE scholarships and
26 pre-K programs in the coming years; and

27 WHEREAS, the board of directors of the Georgia Lottery Corporation is obligated to
28 consider all revenue raising options available to increase lottery revenues to fund HOPE
29 scholarship and pre-K programs.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 request that the board of directors of the Georgia Lottery Corporation develop methods to
32 increase lottery revenue in order to preserve and grow Georgia's HOPE scholarship and
33 pre-K programs.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of directors of the Georgia Lottery
35 Corporation is requested to provide, in a timely manner, the Senate with a report outlining
36 the board's review and conclusions.